

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

On October 15, 2004 I called the station to see when Stolen Honor was to air. I was told on October 20 @9:00 p.m. I then asked when Going UpRiver was to air, which is the 'other wise of the story", and was told that there were no plans to air this show.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But they clearly are not serving all public interest by only showing an anti-kerry documentary of dubious credibility. I am absolutely appalled that in this country, such blatant disregard for fair and balanced behavior by the media is disregarded.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line or special interests, and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.